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COUNTRY Hungary REPORT

TOPIC Soviet Troops in Kecskemet and Garbogard

EVALUATION PLACE OBTAINED 25X1
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DATE OF CONTENT

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REFERENCES **637805** 25X1

PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS 25X1

1. Prior to March 1954, the eastern section of the former Rudolf Kaserne on the north side of Izsaki Street in Kecskemet (Y 6/N 95) quartered a Soviet tank unit. On 10 March 1954, 12 tanks with bogie wheels and track-supporting rollers were observed in the yard. The barrels of the tank guns were longer than the barrels of the T-34 guns and had muzzle brakes. Several hundred soldiers received basic infantry training in the western section of the installation. Soviet soldiers with infantry equipment frequently marched out of the installation. Local inhabitants said that the eastern section of the installation quartered a tank unit of several hundred men and that the western section of the installation was occupied by a rifle unit.
2. Prior to March 1954, another tank unit of an estimated 400 men was quartered in the former Ferenc József Kaserne on the south side of ~~Dózsa~~ Gyorgy Street. All soldiers of the unit wore black service color. The unit was believed to be subordinate to the tank unit stationed at the Rudolf Kaserne since there was heavy traffic between the two installations.
3. In February 1954, five biplanes were parked in the southern section of the landing strip west of the former Rudolf Kaserne. 25X1
4. Prior to March 1954, Soviet troops were quartered in the former Cavalry Barracks on the north side of Szolnoki Street and the former convent of the "Good Shepherd" which adjoined this installation to the west. Three platoons which exclusively were equipped with infantry weapons such as rifles, submachine guns, and water-cooled machine guns on handcarts were seen there. The soldiers stationed at the former Cavalry Barracks and the former convent apparently belonged to the same rifle unit.¹

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5. In November 1953, Soviet troops were observed in a barracks installation near the Sárbogárd (Y 5/ E 26) railroad station. About 20 Soviet soldiers were seen standing around three tanks.²

1. Comment. Soviet occupation of the former Rudolf Kaserne, the former Ferenc József Kaserne and the former Cavalry Barracks is known. The division headquarters and component units of the Soviet 2d Gds Mech Div are carried in Kecskemét. The description of the tanks observed in the yard of the former Rudolf Kaserne tends to indicate that they were JS tanks. The 87th Gds Hv Tank SP Regt of the 2d Gds Mech Div is possibly stationed at Kecskemét. A previous report of August 1952 indicated that a Soviet hospital was housed in the building west of the former Cavalry Barracks which probably is identical with the former convent of the "Good Shepherd" mentioned in the present report. The occupation of this building has possibly changed. The present information indicates that the former Cavalry Barracks and the former convent quartered a mechanized regiment or component units of a mechanized regiment of the 2d Gds Mech Div. The water-cooled machine guns observed presumably were "Maxim" model 1910 heavy machine guns. In August 1952, three Po-2 planes were stationed at the airfield west of Rudolf Kaserne. It is believed that the five biplanes mentioned in the present report were Po-2 aircraft of a Soviet liaison squadron which is detached to the division headquarters carried in Kecskemét.

2. Comment. A Soviet unit stationed at Sárbogárd was previously reported and appears to be confirmed there.

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